

Year	Number of retail outlet dealerships allotted.
1998-99	2
1999-2000	3
Total	13

(b) Three retail outlet dealerships were allotted to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and two to persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the rural areas of Bihar during the last five years. There is no reservation for the minority communities in the allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products.

Opposition to Disinvestment of Oil and Gas PSUs

1639. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had opposed the disinvestment of the Government equity in certain Oil and Gas PSUs on the ground that they are of a strategic nature;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any decision has been taken by Government in terms of properly defining strategic and non-strategic sectors; and
- (d) if so, when and the other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The decisions in regard to the general disinvestment policy or the disinvestment proposals in specific PSUs are taken by the Government after inter ministerial consultations at various levels.

All the concerned departments and ministries express their views on the proposals under consideration and often suggest amendments and improvements to the proposals. These suggestions for amendments/improvements are duly considered by Government at the time of taking final decisions.

- (c) and (d) The Government has clearly defined the strategic and

non-strategic Public Sector Enterprises as per the decision dated 16.3.1999. The definition is that the strategic Public Sector Enterprises would be those in the areas of:

1. Arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence air-crafts and warships.
2. Atomic Energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries).
3. Railway Transport It was also decided that for the non-strategic Public Sector Enterprises, the reduction of Government share to 26% would not be automatic and the manner and pace of doing so would be worked out keeping in mind the circumstances of the sector and company in question. A decision in regard to the percentage of disinvestment i.e., Government share going down to less than 51% or to 26%, would be taken on the following considerations:
 - (a) Whether the Industrial sector requires the presence of the public sector as a countervailing force to prevent concentration of power in private hands, and
 - (b) whether the industrial sector requires proper regulatory mechanism to protect the consumer interests before Public Sector Enterprises are privatised.

Total Assets of ONGC

1640. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the net worth, equity structure, the working capital, reserves and surplus, profit earned before and after tax, earning per share, dividend and taxes paid as on 31st March, 2000 for Oil and Natural Gas Commission;
- (b) the total assets of ONGC on re-evaluated basis at current prices as on 31st March, 2000;